



NUMBER 8

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A news-letter issued by the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda, Inc.

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LA GUARDIA INVESTIGATES "CHRISTIAN FRONT"

Probe May Open Nation-Wide Inquiry
Into Activity of Coughlin Supporters

A thorough investigation of the so-called "Christian Front" in New York is being carried on by the office of Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia.

According to reliable information reaching The Hour, the following are the facts of the inquiry:

The Police Department is conducting the investigation, with Assistant to the Mayor Byrnes McDonald in charge. Not only the activities of the Christian Front are being probed -- undergoing a careful sifting are also the habits of the Front's affiliates: the Christian Mobilizers, the Crusaders for Americanism, the American Nationalists, the Social Justice Distributors' Club, and several other fascistically-inclined groups. An important part in the investigation is naturally being played by the growing number of terroristic acts, for which these groups are responsible, their seditious and un-American "principles," and their general practice of inciting to riot and violence.

A typical prod sending the Mayor's office into action may be found in the features of the recent case of Allen Zoll, leader of the Christian Front forces in New York, who was arrested on the charge of attempting to extort funds from the radio station WMCA. If the inquiry into the activities of the Fronters includes a full probing of Zoll's past, the investigators will uncover significant data on how far-flung are the influences of the fascist web. The investigators may find out, for example, with which of the Nazi dignitaries Zoll consulted at the Adlon Hotel in Berlin in 1934, and what advice and instruction he received from them.

It is quite likely that the Mayor's investigation will prove the opening gun in a nation-wide campaign to prevent the widespread use of violence and "Franco's methods" on the part of the Christian Fronters and other followers of Father Coughlin (see "Coughlin and Christian Front Follow German Schooling" on Page 2 of this issue).

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COUGHLIN AND CHRISTIAN FRONT FOLLOW GERMAN SCHOOLING

The June issue of *Weltwacht der Deutschen*, a Nazi publication at Dresden, Germany, subheaded "Newspaper for the Germandom of the Earth," proclaimed in a headline: "The Situation in the U.S.A. is the Same as in Spain in 1936." On July 30, at Detroit, in his regular Sunday speech Father Coughlin attacked what he called "the poppycock of democracy" and threatened that his Christian Front in the United States was ready to fight "in Franco's way if necessary."

For Saturday, August 19, the Christian Front of New York, comprising a number of anti-democratic fascist organizations, is planning a march through the streets of Manhattan to Union Square. The choice of Union Square as the marchers' destination is in strict accordance with the tried practice of German Nazis: before they came to power in the Reich they had made a point of marching through workers' districts and to workers' plazas in order to provoke disorders; the same method was used in Austria and led to the Anschluss.

The application for the march permit was filed with the New York city authorities in the name of the "Social Justice Distributors' Club." If permitted, the march will include 25,000 persons, the sponsors boast. In addition to the Christian Front and the S. J. distributors, the following fascist groups are expected to march: the Christian Mobilizers, the Crusaders for Americanism, and the Bund-sponsored "Citizens' Protective League."

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FASCIST STUNT OF REPETITION IS TRIED OUT IN INDIANA

A Nazi-Fascist weekly of Muncie, Indiana, *The X-Ray*, masquerading as "A Beacon for Taxpayers and Honest Labor," praises Hitler and attacks President Roosevelt. In a recent issue it asks a question clearly suggested from Berlin: "Why is the President so worried about the Jews in Germany when we have distrust and dire troubles at home?" It goes on: "Why? Why? Why? Think! Think! Americans!" This trick of repetition is borrowed from Rome with its blackshirts' cry: "Duce! Duce! Duce!" The same trick was recently planted by the fascist conquerors in Spain, where the official cry now is: "Franco! Franco! Franco!" The conquered Spaniards, however, would not take it seriously. The current joke in Madrid is for the cafe-sitters to cry out repeatedly, "Waiter! Waiter! Waiter! Coffee! Coffee! Coffee!"

The main point of the joke is, of course, scarcity of coffee (and other food) in fascist countries. "Distrust and dire troubles at home" are caused in each land not by its democratic elements, as the Indiana sheet suggests, but precisely by those fascist rulers whom its editor would invoke.

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VONSIATSKY MAKES CLEAR KUHN'S CONNECTIONS IN BERLIN

Through Kuhn's Influence in the Reich the "Count" Tries
to Bolster His Own Wide Net of International Intrigue

If Congressman Dies wishes to establish Fritz Kuhn's real connections with German Nazi leaders, he should immediately investigate the relationship between Kuhn and "Count" Anastase Vonsiatsky, whose case has been brought to the attention of the Department of State (The Hour, July 30).

The Hour has the following information from Vonsiatsky's own oral and written admissions:

Both Kuhn and Vonsiatsky were lying when they said that they had met only once before their unfortunate week-end together on the Russian's estate at Thompson, Conn., last month. As a matter of fact, Vonsiatsky had met Kuhn many times before this at New York meetings. After these get-togethers, Kuhn personally invited Vonsiatsky to attend a Bund rally at the opening of Camp Siegfried (Yaphank, Long Island) on May 21, 1939. Photographs of the gathering show Vonsiatsky, dressed storm-trooper style, marching with Kuhn, Wheeler-Hill, Markmann and others of the Bund elite. Vonsiatsky, it is known, spoke that day from the same platform as Kuhn. His speech was one of greeting and thanks to the Bund members: "It was not only a pleasure -- it was a great honor, indeed, to march at the side of your brave leader."

While in Germany the "Count" Learned of Kuhn's Real Position

But the Vonsiatsky-Kuhn friendship was not merely a union of kindred hearts. Vonsiatsky says he had a reason for cultivating Kuhn's company. It seems that, while in Germany, Vonsiatsky had talked with Alfred Rosenberg and other Nazi leaders, and he had found out Kuhn's real position. He returned to America determined to seek out Kuhn's friendship and use Kuhn's influence to help his own Fascist party in Germany.

Vonsiatsky's "Russian Fascist Party" had been banned in Germany. Calumnies were being circulated about the man himself. Rumors were going around that Donat Kunle, Vonsiatsky's secretary and editor of the Fascist (Vonsiatsky's magazine), was a Jew. The Gestapo had asked a certain Mr. Sarafian of Vienna to find proof of Mrs. Vonsiatsky's Aryan ancestry, which was apparently in doubt. Most of these clouds over Vonsiatsky had been manufactured by the men of the Gestapo, who wanted an excuse for prohibiting Vonsiatsky's party.

With the Gestapo there was no question of outlawing Vonsiatsky altogether. It was simply a matter of inner German Nazi unity. The Gestapo wanted the Russian Fascist Party to be controlled from Berlin, not from Thompson, Conn. In spite of Vonsiatsky's admiration of Hitler, his aping of Hitler's mannerisms and methods, his keeping of Hitler's portrait in his room, and his deluging of almost the entire world with Nazi propaganda, there isn't enough "lebensraum" for two Nazi parties in

Germany. Vonsiatsky's party had to go. Outside of Germany, the Gestapo would continue to make use of Vonsiatsky, and to cooperate with him whenever necessary.

Kuhn claims to have no connection whatsoever with the German Nazis. But "Count" Anastase Vonsiatsky asserts that he became friendly with Kuhn only because of Kuhn's connections with German Nazi leaders. Here is Vonsiatsky's statement -- The Hour's questions and his answers:

- Q. You wanted Kuhn to bring pressure on his leaders in Germany to take the ban off your party there? Is that right?
- A. Yes, that's the idea.
- Q. The only reason that you had contact with Kuhn was to get him to make his chiefs take the ban off your party in Germany?
- A. That's the idea -- to get him to make them change their attitude.

Vonsiatsky and International Nazism: Inquiry is Urged

That is Vonsiatsky's own statement. It is clear that the "Count," as a world-known fascist leader and a friend of Nazi Rosenberg, must have considerably more familiarity with Kuhn's German connections than Congressman Dies can have. But The Hour suggests that any investigation of the Kuhn-Vonsiatsky tie-up should be merely preliminary to an exhaustive inquiry into Vonsiatsky's own connections with international Nazism.

Precisely what, for instance, does Vonsiatsky do, whom does he meet, and what plans does he lay, on his frequent trips to the Near East and the Far East and in fact all around the world? What is the connection between Vonsiatsky and such a notorious American Nazi as Silver-Shirter Pelley? In his Fascist, the "Count" reprinted in full an anti-Semitic article from Pelley's Weekly and several pages of text and pictures from Father Coughlin's Social Justice, repeating Goebbels-made falsehoods that the Jews were responsible for Russian bolshevism. What is the connection between the "Count" and Father Coughlin? And what of the link with that rabid American fascist, Major Pease, who distributes, along with his own "literature," certain leaflets printed by "Count" Vonsiatsky?

According to Vonsiatsky's employee, the printer Nikifor Banko, the "Count" tried to poison him. What revelations did Vonsiatsky fear from the man? And why the miniature arsenal at the Thompson estate? Why the drilling and militarization of boys which resulted in the lawsuit brought by Alexei Yatsuk in January 1939 charging that Vonsiatsky caused Yatsuk's children to attend a Fascist school in New York? And if Congressman Dies knew just what was discussed at the meeting at the Chanin Building attended by Vonsiatsky, Henry Allen, Freiherr von Reibnitz, Melnikoff, Hans Beisterveld, a certain "General" Garibaldi, and other American and foreign nazi-fascists, he -- and perhaps the American public -- might have a fuller explanation of Vonsiatsky's peculiar activities here and abroad.

Vonsiatsky points to his denial of anti-Semitism as clear proof that he has nothing in common with the ordinary American Nazis. Vonsiat-

sky makes great play of the fact that, as he puts it, "in my party there is no Jewish question." This camouflage or "tactic" was adopted by Vonsiatsky after much squabbling with his party-comrades (his "fellow-combatants") at Harbin, Manchukuo, in 1934. At that time Vonsiatsky's headquarters were at Harbin, and he published a paper there called Nazia. Vonsiatsky's line on "the Jewish question" was finally laid down in the Nazia in this fashion: "Having taken into consideration that the All-Russian Fascist Party is operating in the United States, a country governed by Jews and Masons, we decided that it is as yet premature to raise the Jewish question."

Nevertheless the "Count" has not been consistent in following out this line. Considerable space in the Fascist has been devoted to anti-Semitism. Much money and "advice" has flowed from Vonsiatsky to the various White Russian anti-Semitic organizations here and abroad. In this country Vonsiatsky has made strenuous attempts to convert the Russo-Americans to Nazism. Just how successful he has been in this effort is not yet known; but at least one notable failure has been recorded. On Decoration Day of last year, Vonsiatsky and his "fellow-combatants" were chased off the grounds of a Greek-Orthodox Church at South Canaan, Pennsylvania, by an angry crowd, whose church festival had been interrupted by Vonsiatsky's Nazi speeches. The crowd yelled after Vonsiatsky and his allies: "Nazis! Germans!"

He Wants to be "Grand American Fuehrer"

The Hour has learned that there is a movement on foot to attempt the unification of the various scattered anti-Semitic, Nazi, Fascist and other "nationalist-patriotic" groups in this country under one common leadership. The United States is to have a mammoth confederation of all nazi-fascist organizations, operating from a central committee, and thus be in a position to activate every rogue and lunatic in America to a definite program. This "confederation" is to be accomplished, at least for the most important organizations, before 1940, so that the movement can play its role in the presidential elections.

The question is raised: who is to be the grand American Fuehrer? Who indeed? Can it be that "Count" Anastase Vonsiatsky, who likes to remember that his birthday falls on the same day as that of Peter the Great, entertains this high ambition? Mrs. Vonsiatsky, with her husband's permission, has rhapsodized on the theme of her husband's destiny as another Napoleon or Mussolini or Hitler.

And do not forget that Mrs. Vonsiatsky is the former Mrs. Marion Ream Stephens, the American lady who inherited one-sixth of the \$40,000,000 Ream fortune of Chicago. It is her millions that are behind Vonsiatsky's ambitions.

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GERMANS IN CHINA VAINLY ASKED HITLER TO DESIST

Sir Victor Sassoon Tells The Hour of the Anti-Japanese Feelings of Germans in the Far East

Delegates have been sent by the German community in China to see Hitler and ask him to desist from encouraging Japan in her present policy, but they returned from Berlin completely discouraged. They brought back the Fuehrer's answer that their interests in the Far East must suffer for the sake of the Reich's larger policy.

This information was conveyed to The Hour by Sir Victor Sassoon, British financier of the Far East, now in the United States on a brief visit. In his statement to The Hour Sir Victor said:

"The Reich's policy in the Far East is simple, and that is to encourage Japan to be a nuisance to France and Great Britain. This policy of support to Japan is very unpopular with the German community in China whose interests are to keep friendly with China and whose business competes more directly with Japan than does that of any other foreign community. Deputations have been sent by them to see the Fuehrer but to no avail, and they have been told that their interests must suffer for the sake of the Reich.

"Japan is fully aware that Germany is making a cat's-paw of her but is prepared to take the fullest advantage of the situation without in any way allowing her policy of driving all foreign interests out of China, except where it is to her own particular advantage, to be diverted."

Statement Borne Out by Statistics of German Losses

Sir Victor's statement is supported by the statistical evidence provided by the Nazi press itself. Thus, the Hamburger Fremdenblatt of July 11 published a section of the 1938 report of the German-Asiatic Bank in Shanghai. Bitter lament for the losses of German trade in China is prominent in the report as is the bank's complaint of the badgering of German sales offices by Japan. "Until now only Japanese ships have been permitted to trade on the Yangtze River," the report declares. "German trade with Shanghai fell 46.2%, and trade with the rest of China decreased by 31.7% (compared with figures for 1937). Japan now occupies first place in exports and imports with China. Germany's exports to China are now 12.64% of Germany's total trade compared with 14.3% in 1937. Similarly, imports from China constitute 7.39% of Germany's imports, compared with 8.64% in 1937. Since the seizure of Hankow and Canton, German business with both places has reached a standstill. No further improvement can be expected from Shanghai since ships are still prevented from navigating the river by the Japanese."

In this connection it is of interest to note that the Hamburger Fremdenblatt is a mouthpiece of the Reich's foreign office, and that these figures were published on the eve of the signing of the new trade treaty between the Nazi Reich and Japan. Foreign trade experts express their doubts whether the new treaty, despite all the fanfare attending its signing, will materially improve the gloomy picture of the above report.

GERMAN RAILROADS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR WAR

The Hour Interviews a High Reich Official

A representative of The Hour had an opportunity of meeting and conversing with a high official of the German state railroads. The country and city where the interview took place, as well as certain other details that might help the Gestapo to identify the two men, cannot of course be mentioned. Omitting the questions asked by our man, we give the substance of the answers by the official:

Railroad Needs Neglected -- 561 Trains Cancelled

"We are getting ready for a war, as you well know. The military strength of the Reich to a great extent depends on efficiency of its railroads. And yet the Nazi government has virtually neglected the needs of the railroads. We suffer from a terrific shortage of cars and locomotives,

"One of our main troubles is the inefficiency of our chiefs. Our vice-president, Herr Kleinmann, member of the (Nazi) party; does nothing but talk. Last December he was going to order 70,000 cars, he promised a huge program of repair and replacement, a program 'the world has never seen before,' he said. But what did really come of it? In January and February of this year we had to cancel 561 passenger trains, including some 85 expresses. The traffic is restricted despite the increased demands of industry and trade!

Trains Crowded and Slow -- Accidents Increase

"Trains that are not cancelled are unbelievably crowded. Rails and cars and locomotives are worn out. Our system, which formerly was so precisely and punctually run, is now approaching complete chaos. Here are a few figures: from 1935 to 1938 the number of accidents has increased by 700 per year, that is, by 40 per cent, while the number of passengers killed or injured has increased by 50 per cent. Every other train is late. Because of the shortage of skilled personnel, in spite of the overtime that the personnel has to work, the trains are slower and slower.

"The railroad employees are brokenhearted. It is indeed a shame to see with our own eyes how the Nazi system ruins the railroads. But we can't do anything about it. The Secretary of Traffic, Dr. Klein, is considered by us old railroad employees just a dummy. He is an old Nazi and came into his fine job through his party. He does not understand a single thing about the railroads. That stupid man! He gets drunk every Sunday, also on those weekdays when he is out on his trips of inspection.

"We are very desperate. We feel as if we are on a sinking ship. And, of course, being only human, we take advantage of the situation and betray the Nazis -- we ask for overtime pay even when we do not put in the time, we waste our time on the so-called inspection tours, and we console

ourselves with the thought that we are not really part of the Nazi gang.

Disgust and Sabotage

"The German public at large is disgusted with the railroads -- with us. They see us traveling in style, a whole bunch of railroad officials on those senseless inspection tours, at the expense of the state -- of the taxpayers. Visitors to seashore resorts certainly know by now that the railroad employees drink perhaps more than all the others put together, that they -- including the Secretary -- behave like swine.

"In Austria and in the Sudeten area they laugh bitterly at our 'inspecting.' Their railroads do not work as well as they used to, because the Reich Railroads took over much of their rolling stock. In Austria and Czechoslovakia people sabotage our rule of their railroads. We can't run the Czech roads without Czech help. So we asked the authorities in Prague to send us 300 Czech experts. They hate us. We order them to follow our regulations, but they stick to their old rules.

"But then there is sabotage and opposition among the railroad workers in the Old Reich, too. I have reasons to believe that a certain foreign power gets all the secret information it wants from several groups or various individuals among our railroad personnel: unloading of special packing cases containing parts of airplanes and new guns, new Nazi decrees pertaining to the railroad, news of accidents.

"This foreign power -- or perhaps several foreign powers -- know that railroads are the weak spot in the Nazi system. The Nazi fate in a war may in great part be decided by just that failure."

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NAZIS ENCOUNTER OPPOSITION FROM SMALL STOCKHOLDERS

Small stockholders in the Reich are increasing their opposition to the Nazi corporation law, passed in October 1937, and vesting full control in the boards of directors on the "fuehrer"-basis. Recent meetings of corporation stockholders have witnessed heated discussions of certain practices which deprive the small stockholder of his share of profits in favor of corporation officials and Nazi functionaries. In corporations as dissimilar as the Cameroon Rubber Company of Berlin, the Planeta Press Machine Works of Dresden, and the Aktien Bauverein Passage of Berlin, shareholders protested directors' actions and demanded proper accounting. The large stockholders, by voting themselves fat salaries while holding down the dividend rate, and by controlling the corporations' reserves, are able to squeeze out smaller stockholders. The former group is supported by the Nazi state which, in order to defray the costs of the armament program, places its taxing hands on large accumulations of corporation funds (for another illustration of Nazi drive upon small business people see The Hour of July 30).

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WORLD AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS UPSETS FASCIST STRATEGY

Virtually unreported in the American press, the 8th Congress of the International Confederation of Agriculture, held at Dresden, Germany, from July 6 to 12, was the scene of a serious setback for the Nazis and their Italian allies. Main humiliation fell to the lot of Walter Darre, the Nazi minister of agriculture, and his Reich Nutrition Board. He and his friends from Rome had carefully planned to dedicate the congress to praising the Axis and its autarchic farming policies. But, to the great dismay of Darre and his group, the democratic representatives of the International Agricultural Center officially presented to all the 1,700 delegates present a book containing twenty-three reports. The reports criticized fascist attempts at autarchy as a method of war preparation and recommended a farm policy based on peace and on free organization of agriculture.

The determined stand of the democratic delegates forced the amendment or withdrawal of many of the Nazi-Fascist proposals, among them Darre's own resolution on the Nazi theory of "blood and soil." Even some of the German and Italian delegates were at times seen joining in applause during and after the non-fascist speeches in favor of peaceful economics. Not trusting Nazi reports, foreign delegates between sessions deliberately visited local German villages and learned at first hand from the farmers themselves of their plight under Nazism.

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YEARS OF NAZI RULE DIRECT CAUSE OF FLIGHT FROM LAND

Despite Nazi boasts of helping the German peasant to retain his land, latest official figures available (*Statistisches Jahrbuch*, 1938) prove the sad results of the first five years of Hitler's rule. From 1932 to 1938 the number of new farms settled fell from 9,046 to 1,407, and the majority of the latter were in the category of large and middle-sized estates. Moreover, the government took nearly four per cent of arable land out of cultivation for military purposes, thereby removing from production about ten per cent of land capable of growing bread-grains. In all, a mere 0.8 per cent of all landowners (with estates larger than 100 hectares, or 250 acres) possess more land than the 88.7 per cent of German landowners with farms smaller than 20 hectares.

Such distribution of land is the main cause for the migration of the rural population. Under the Nazi law only "racially" and politically desirable peasants are allowed to own the so-called *Erbhoefe* or unsalable farms. This law also disinherits younger brothers and sisters and confiscates farms not operated according to the requirements of the state. The administration of this law by the Reich Nutrition Board has helped to create one million landless country people driven by necessity to work in the cities.

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